



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held November 23, 2004, the Board took the following action:

17

The following item was called up for consideration:

Director of Health Services' attached recommendation to approve the proposed reduction of trauma services at Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center; instruct the Director to submit for the Board's consideration, an appropriation adjustment, as necessary, for Harbor-UCLA Medical Center to provide for additional trauma patients resulting from the closure of the Martin Luther King Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center trauma unit; and authorize the Director to amend the trauma services agreement with St. Francis Medical Center, as necessary, to provide for additional trauma patients resulting from the closure of the Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center trauma unit.

Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director of Health Services made a verbal presentation on the proposed reduction of trauma services and answered questions posed by the Board.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

"The availability of trauma services is critical to the residents of South Los Angeles. King/Drew Medical Center (KDMC) has played an important role in meeting this need. It is in the public interest to ensure that trauma services at KDMC be restored.

(Continued on Page 2)

“We all recognize that the hospital is facing many significant challenges, the most important of which is to make sure that patients are cared for in a consistently safe environment. Certainly, the activities being undertaken by Navigant in its day-to-day oversight of the hospital’s management and its assessment and implementation of recommendations will contribute to achieving this goal. Similarly, the Director of Health Services should be working to ensure that the resources from across the system are brought to bear to support the efforts to restructure King/Drew. This should include examining the reallocation of staff from other facilities, as well as the integration of resident training program rotations.

“A critical aspect of fixing the problems at King/Drew is strengthening the physician faculty and resident training programs. Dr. Garthwaite has previously informed this Board of his intent to integrate the resident training programs across the Department of Health Services facilities; the challenges at King/Drew present the opportunity to bring this goal to life. An outside advisory group has been established by the Department to provide an additional perspective to the Department of Health Services on the progress being made to restructure the hospital and the Drew Medical School. This group can play a key role in achieving this integration. The members of this group include academic leaders from both the UCLA and USC Schools of Medicine and their involvement in evaluating the ability of King/Drew to strengthen its clinical and academic programs is critical, particularly to the future of the hospital’s provision of trauma and related services.

“Additionally, the entry of California Hospital into the trauma network will add much-needed trauma services in the County. Should the Board vote to suspend trauma designation, according to the Director of Health Services, KDMC will not immediately close and should remain open for 60 to 90 days while the transition occurs. The opening of California Hospital’s trauma Unit on December 1, 2004 will give us the opportunity to see whether reduced volume in the trauma center addresses the Department of Health Services’ concerns regarding patient safety at King/Drew and serves to decompress the hospital.

(Continued on Page 3)

"I therefore recommend that the Board instruct the Director of Health Services to:

1. Establish a goal for the restoration of trauma services, if certain internal and external conditions are aligned including quality, resources, patient need, and the mission of KDMC;
2. Include the following items in King/Drew advisory group's charter:
  - Recommendations for the future of resident training programs at King/Drew, including the number and configuration of training programs at King/Drew and a process and timeline to achieve this goal; and
  - Recommendations and a timeline for achieving greater collaboration and integration of training programs between King/Drew and the other Department of Health Services teaching facilities; and
3. In consultation with Navigant Consulting, conduct ongoing assessments of whether KDMC can safely provide trauma services and at what volume of patients; and
4. Report back by February 15, 2005 on the Advisory Group's findings, recommendations and a plan for implementing these proposals."

Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Juanita Millender-McDonald, Senators Ed Vincent and Gilbert Cedillo, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Martin Ludlow and Antonio Villaragosa, Leticia Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Lynwood, James Lott, Kathy Ochoa, Woody Myers, M.D., and other interested persons addressed the Board. Written correspondence was presented.

After discussion, at the request of Supervisor Burke, the Chairman ordered a division of the question.

(Continued on Page 4)

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On motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Molina, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Burke, Yaroslavsky, Antonovich, and Knabe; Noes: None, the Board approved Supervisor Burke's amendment to instruct the Director of Health Services to:

1. Establish a goal for the restoration of trauma services, if certain internal and external conditions are aligned including quality, resources, patient need, and the mission of KDMC;
2. Include the following items in King/Drew advisory group's charter:
  - Recommendations for the future of resident training programs at King/Drew, including the number and configuration of training programs at King/Drew and a process and timeline to achieve this goal; and
  - Recommendations and a timeline for achieving greater collaboration and integration of training programs between King/Drew and the other Department of Health Services teaching facilities; and
3. In consultation with Navigant Consulting, conduct ongoing assessments of whether KDMC can safely provide trauma services and at what volume of patients; and
4. Report back by February 15, 2005 on the Advisory Group's findings, recommendations and a plan for implementing these proposals.

On motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky, Antonovich, and Knabe; Noes: None, Abstentions: Supervisor Burke, the Director of Health Services' recommendations regarding the proposed reduction of trauma services at Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center were approved as amended by Supervisor Burke's foregoing motion.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:  
Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel